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Gun violence prevention in  
Washtenaw County: The untold  
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ASK YOUR  
VENDOR: WHY  
SHOULD I BUY  
GROUNDCOVER  
NEWS?  
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#512  
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# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP | WASHTENAW COUNTY, MICH.

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the revolutionary  
power of poor people.  
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Photo credit: Steve Pavey/Poor People's Campaign/Repairers of the Breach/Kairos Center.

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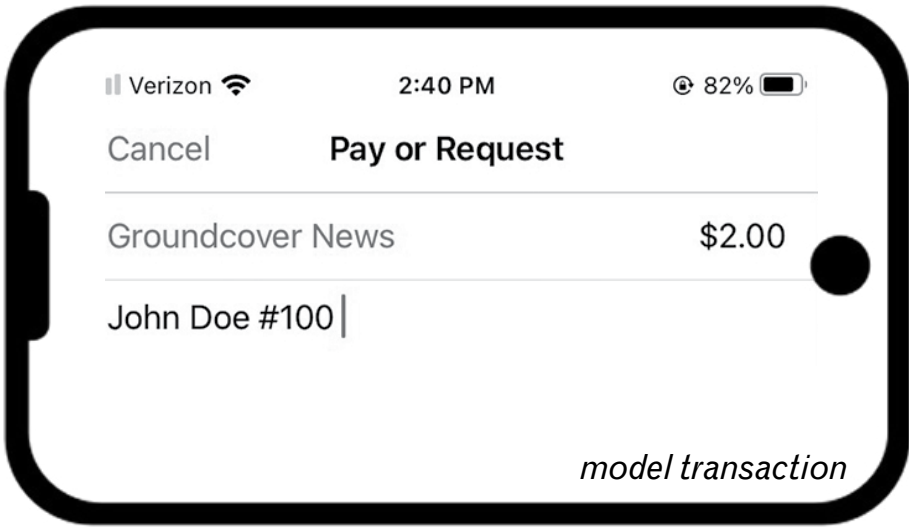
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CREATING **OPPORTUNITY** AND A **VOICE** FOR LOW-INCOME PEOPLE WHILE TAKING ACTION TO END HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY.

Groundcover News, a 501(c)(3) organization, was founded in April 2010 as a means to empower low-income persons to make the transitions from homeless to housed, and from jobless to employed. Vendors purchase each biweekly copy of Groundcover News at our office for 50 cents. This money goes towards production costs. Vendors work selling the paper on the street for \$2, keeping all income and tips from each sale. Street papers like Groundcover News exist in cities all over the United States, as well as in more than 40 other countries, in an effort to raise awareness of the plight of homeless people and combat the increase in poverty. We are proudly a member of the International Network of Street Papers.

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**ASK YOUR VENDOR**

**Why should someone buy Groundcover News?**

**To be a more fully engaged person in the community.**  
— Ken Parks, #490

**In 2010 I would've said "to keep pan-handlers off the street and provide a source of income." Now, I would say "to help low-income people find work and pay their bills."**  
— Will Shakespeare, #258

**Groundcover News has been around for awhile, but it still can be a new tradition.**  
— James Hall, #512

**This gives people an outlet to make money that is legal and honest.**  
— Jay Gordon, #533

**I believe someone should buy Groundcover News not only to support their community, but also to have relationships with the vendors and to have a basic understanding of real, local news.**  
— Larzell Washington, #128

**To help people get off the streets. You need money for first month's rent, on top of the deposit and sometimes more.**  
— Hal Klenk, #88

**This paper gives our local community the opportunity to read articles of high quality and access vital information on local events.**  
— Cindy Gere, #279

**Storytime with Uncle Hal, the "kiddies' pal"**

**ANNA GERSH**  
Groundcover contributor

It's been a minute, but the Groundcover Vendor Reading Project is BACK!!

This time around a story was read by Mr. Hal Klenk. Hal is a United States Air Force Veteran and has been a Groundcover vendor since 2012. He read "The Breaking News" by Sarah Lynne Reul. Hal's reading was recorded and sent to Groundcover News's partner at Eastern Michigan University, Bright Futures. Ms. Jessica Dossou-Yovo is the Site Coordinator and Program Facilitator at the Bright Futures site at Walker-Winter Elementary School in Canton, Mich. She shared Hal's recording with her second- through fifth-graders. The kids were really inspired by Hal's reading, which included thoughtful and supportive commentary and advice about how to reach out to helpful adults when they have questions or concerns about the world.

The story is about a child whose parents become visibly upset after watching the news. And their behavior changes and becomes worrisome for the kids, especially the oldest who is about nine or 10 years old. The book shows the parents having a hard time hiding their concerns and the effect it has on their



**Watch Hal Klenk, Groundcover vendor No. 88, read "The Breaking News" at [groundcovernews.org](http://groundcovernews.org).**

household. This is a sadly familiar situation to many kids and the group had a great discussion about the story. They talked all about how it feels when parents are worried and they recognized and appreciated Hal's advice about talking to trusted adults when they have concerns.

The main message in the story is that when trouble comes and weighs heavily on our hearts, we are never powerless; there are always things we can do and even small things can make a big difference.

I visited the class and shared a bit about Groundcover and the type of work we do. They were so excited to be included in our paper!! The students created the accompanying images to share a few of the ideas they came up

with to make a difference when the going gets tough. We thank the students at Walker-Winter and Ms. Dossou-Yovo for sharing their thoughts with Groundcover and hope to work with you again.

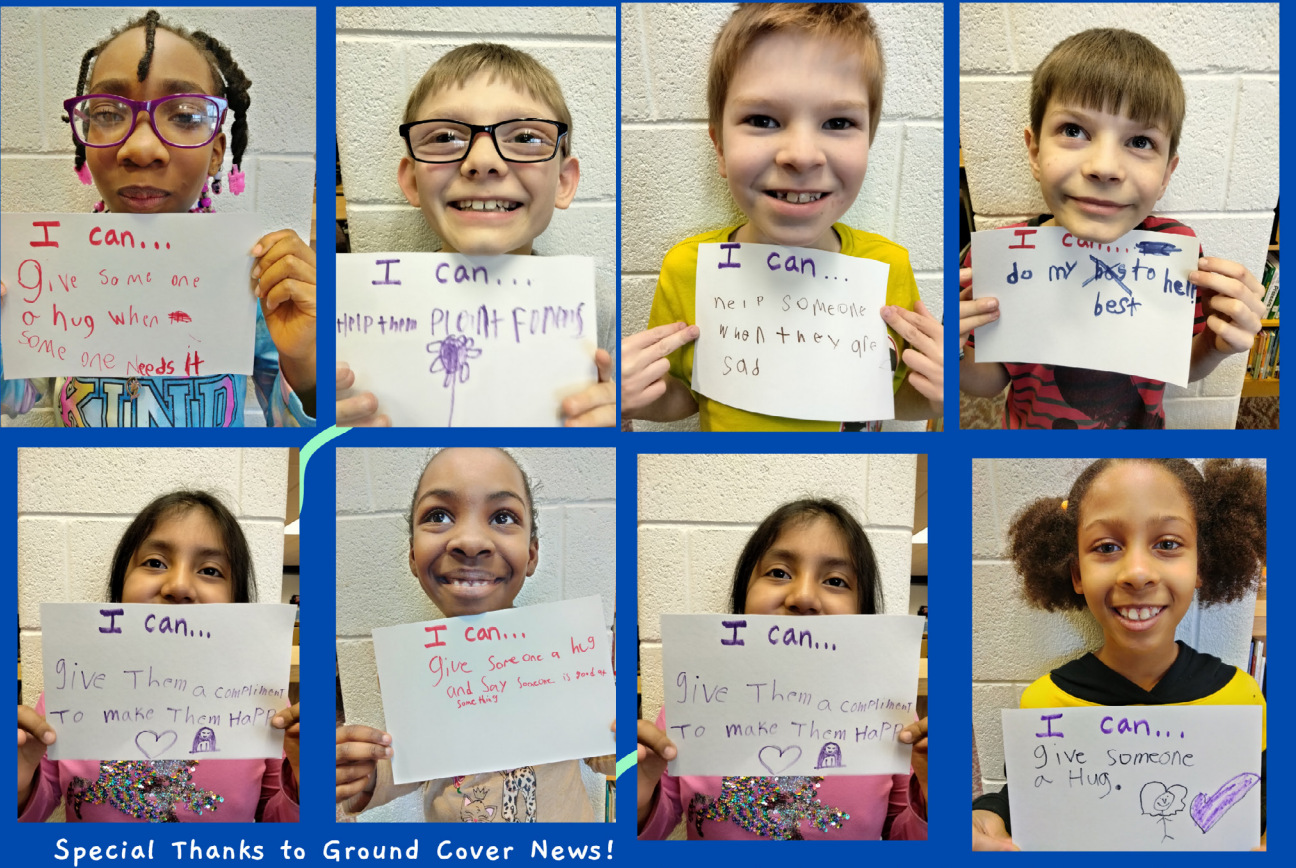
If you have an educational program and would like to participate in the Groundcover Vendor Reading Project, please reach out to Anna at [acgersh@gmail.com](mailto:acgersh@gmail.com).

*Editor's note: In the summer of 2021, Dr. Anna Gersh, a Groundcover board member, first linked the mission of our newspaper with childhood literacy. In the Groundcover Reading Project, vendors are recorded reading picture books and the videos are sent to participating schools or after-school programs for educational fun.*

**WE CAN DO SMALL THINGS TO MAKE THIS WORLD BETTER!**



**INSPIRED BY THE BOOK "THE BREAKING NEWS"**



**Special Thanks to Ground Cover News!**



# The Boots Theory: it's expensive to be poor

**DARREN ZHENG**  
U-M student contributor

The cornerstone of the American Dream is socioeconomic mobility: the ability to move up classes with hard work and resilience, regardless of one's circumstances. It has been romanticized for much of American history, but the truth is that it is more expensive to be poor, resulting in a death spiral that oppressively keeps much of the population in poverty.

The Boots Theory of socioeconomic unfairness is an economic theory explaining the greater expenses associated with poverty. It states that the reason those in poverty stay in poverty is that the rich have the privilege of being able to spend less money. It is not that the impoverished mismanage their money — they simply are unable to use it efficiently due to inherent economic limitations. The following metaphor, written in 1993 by Terry Pratchett, an English author, explains this in simple terms:

“A really good pair of leather boots cost fifty dollars. But an affordable pair of boots, which were sort of OK for a

season or two and then leaked like hell when the cardboard gave out, cost about ten dollars. Those were the kind of boots Vimes always bought, and wore until the soles were so thin that he could tell where he was in Ankh-Morpork on a foggy night by the feel of the cobbles. But the thing was that good boots lasted for years and years. A man who could afford fifty dollars had a pair of boots that'd still be keeping his feet dry in ten years' time, while a poor man who could only afford cheap boots would have spent a hundred dollars on boots in the same time and would still have wet feet.”

This principle manifests itself in multiple ways that actively oppress those who are impoverished. For example, those who are unable to afford security deposits and rent for an apartment may have to default to living in motels, which in the long term become more expensive than apartments. However, these people have no choice, as they are unable to afford the upfront costs of renting an apartment. Those who are impoverished may take out loans, and because of their status, they are forced to pay higher interest rates.

Through these practices, the definition of poverty changes. It is no longer only the state of being poor, but also a state of living in economically unsustainable circumstances that exacerbate the situation.

Employment for those in poverty is similarly skewed. For example, employers of working class jobs tend to offer fewer sick days and be more strict. Considering the living conditions of those in poverty and their children, it is more difficult for the poor to satisfy these unfairly strict employment terms. In addition, it is more difficult for those who are poor to find proper child care, and they often find themselves forced to choose between their children and their jobs. Those who are poor are therefore needlessly subject to worse job security that exacerbates their adverse circumstances.

Policymaking concerning poverty and welfare has and continues to rely on false assumptions about those who are impoverished. It tends, wrongly, to place blame on the people, accusing them of a lack of work ethic and assumes they are solely responsible for their economic circumstances. This

“A man who could afford fifty dollars had a pair of boots that'd still be keeping his feet dry in ten years' time, while a poor man who could only afford cheap boots would have spent a hundred dollars on boots in the same time and would still have wet feet.

sentiment ignores the multiple societal factors that cause and perpetuate poverty and are out of the control of the people affected.

Misconceptions about impoverished people should no longer exist. Employment practices must be reformed to be more accommodating of those who are impoverished, as one example. It is necessary that as a society, the unfair disadvantages placed upon those in poverty be acknowledged and eliminated.

# Battle of the information: Mediation of media outlets

**DR. SHARENA RICE**  
Groundcover contributor

In the lead-up to any election, there is a risk of disinformation being spread online in an attempt to influence the outcome. Social media platforms are a popular vehicle for this type of activity, as they offer a wide reach and can be used to target specific groups of people. Politicians, journalists and people building social media platforms all have reason to take precautions.

Social media platforms are under scrutiny for their role in spreading disinformation and propaganda, and there is a growing consensus that more needs to be done to combat these threats. Facebook, Twitter, and Google have all announced new measures to address the issue, but there is still much work to be done. These platforms need to do more to identify and remove disinformation, and they need to be more transparent about the sources of the content they are promoting. They also need to do a better job of educating users about how to identify disinformation and protect themselves from it. And finally, they need to be more proactive in identifying and removing fake accounts and bots that are spreading disinformation.

During the 2022 South by Southwest Conference in Austin Texas, politicians, activists and initiative leaders came together to discuss the fight against election disinformation.

In the panel “Fact v. Fiction: Fighting Election Disinformation,” Chris Krebs of the Commission on Information Disorder noted that most Americans do not really know how elections work: among other things, elections have primaries and canvassing. The incentive structures are upside-down in the age of social media, such that carefully planned campaign information escalation strategies are thrown out the window. Katie Paul of the Tech Transparency Project pointed out that given issues in digital literacy and the loose regulation of information in social media, digital platforms can be used as a weapon. Companies that played a role in election disinformation amplifications are left unchecked.

Senator Jena Griswold, of the State of Colorado, expressed the impracticality of regulations. Both Griswold and Krebs touched upon the need for near-term interventions for fighting election disinformation. Although government organizations are working on it, they are too slow. Many people do not know that the information their friends may be sharing

could be untrue. Furthermore, people may not know that the disinformation they are consuming is being created by big money in large countries trying to influence American elections to produce results favorable to themselves.

Griswold says that she has received death threats, as have secretaries of state and people running for office. She suggested that, to prepare for the 2022 election, it is important for citizens to combat voter suppression by finding an organization that is bringing people to the polls and volunteering with a nonpartisan organization.

The panel “Platforms and Protests: Friends or Foes?” had an alternative angle of activism. Tee Wilson of Gideon's Army spoke about how her organization used social media to grow from a small grassroots nonprofit to a multimillion dollar-raising organization with much higher impact. Daud Mumin of March for Our Lives spoke about how he has kept conversations about gun violence alive. While both Wilson and Mumin use social media in their work to address structural racism, they have different approaches.

Wilson uses video to tell the story, as this changed the game for telling stories so people will take action. She used social media along with traditional out-

reach to keep people engaged.

Mumin cautioned that while it is important to get people angry, some videos are shocking in a way that gets in the way of organizational goals. He noted that social media is not for everyone and should not be for everything: we need to engage the information authentically and responsibly, rather than just quickly understand and move on. Although Mumin started his activism at the age of 14 and knows that the ability to participate in social justice digitally has allowed for better access, he does not have social media on his phone himself.

Brent Messenger of Fiverr suggested an integrative solution: that people work from within platforms to make changes from the inside.

While the battle of information versus misinformation is far from over, yet more questions arise: what should we do as consumers, creators and conduits of media in a world where the incentive structures of profit often do not prioritize the truth? How skeptical should we be? How much accountability should the government, media platforms and activism organizations have in fighting disinformation?

In sum, what are the best means to mediate the media?

# The buried jazz song



Music is down there, deep  
down there, moving  
through blue, red and  
and green Clay

And is coming up to here,  
resonate from the soil,  
and articulate down universes  
elements of brass  
mesmerizing chemicals to shine as fire  
fire  
fire  
burning fire.

Moving through timeless grasses and clumps of earth, and  
modern fossils, which  
leap to ancient melodies,  
and the root woman, and  
to prodigious  
Bach,  
and he too bows,  
and composes still again.

# The ocean

**IAN DEWEY**  
Groundcover contributor

When we were young and innocent,  
How the wind blew across the lake,  
Pulling me to the ocean,  
Where gulls squawked and clouds dragged,  
So nimbly and momentous at once.

Oh how the gale swept so swiftly!  
Across that dark blue surface,  
Where glints of sunlight  
Would lap up along the waves.

I've never seen the ocean,  
But I must know how it feels.  
I've never felt the bask of sea-spray,  
And a boat which starts to keel;  
But soon the tides turn,  
And I fall swiftly to sleep,  
For my dreams are murky  
And I dream the mighty deep.



# Going home

**RON PAGEREKSI**  
Groundcover contributor

The dark angel came for him  
as his eyes grew weak and dim.  
They said, he's going fast  
very soon he'll breathe his last.  
He put his hand upon my arm,  
he said, don't feel alarm.  
I tread the road we all must go,  
say a prayer when I'm laid low.  
Life's been great but now must end,  
on yonder side I'll wait  
for you my friend.  
Homeless, sad, no longer  
will he roam.  
Gone to pauper's grave,  
his forever home.



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In person events are just starting to resume at BUCC. We ask that you visit the church website at: [bethlehem-ucc.org](https://bethlehem-ucc.org) for the most up-to-date calendar and event information.



**Sunday Worship Time**  
10:00 am In-person  
and via Live Stream and  
Radio Broadcast



# Reverend Barber and the revolutionary power of poor people

**ANN-DERRICK GAILLOT**  
**International Network of Street Papers**

At the time of his assassination in 1968, Martin Luther King, Jr. was in the process of organizing a demonstration in Washington, D.C. uniting thousands of struggling Americans, of all races and ethnicities, in the fight for economic justice. Called the Poor People's Campaign and March on Washington, it threatened to upend the interests of the United States's wealthy, ruling class to further the causes of expanding access to education and jobs and ensuring all Americans get a living wage. And when the campaign began in May, just weeks after King's death, thousands of people showed up at the Nation's Capital, set up a settlement on the Mall, and protested, demonstrated, and lobbied until government officials forced them out on June 24. The Campaign had some wins, but was ultimately derailed by King's assassination, as well as that of Senator Robert F. Kennedy not long after.

This summer, a new Poor People's Campaign is planning to realize King's vision of broad-based solidarity with a massive demonstration of its own called the Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly & Moral March on Washington. Like its predecessor, it represents a threat to the status quo and hope for the millions of Americans living in poverty today. Scheduled to take place on June 18 in Washington, D.C., after a series of mobilization events across the country, the March is being spearheaded by the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival (PPC:NCMR). Organizers are set to unite and activate a new generation of struggling and suffering Americans. The only thing they need now is for people to show up.

"The truth of the matter is the poor, low-wealth vote is a vote that's feared," says the Reverend Dr. William Barber, II, a pastor, activist and one of the leaders of PPC:NCMR. "It's just as true today as it was [in 1965] when Dr. King...said that the segregated society was a strategy designed to keep the masses of poor and low wealth from being able to form powerful voting blocks that, if engaged, would threaten the Southern aristocracy and would fundamentally reshape the economic architecture of the country." Noting how voting rights, employment, housing, and climate activists often remain in their own organizing silos, he hopes

that PPC:NCMR, which he co-leads with Reverend Liz Theoharis, and the upcoming March can bring them together in a powerful consolidation of progressive power.

Born in Indianapolis two days after the 1963 March on Washington, Barber grew up in North Carolina, where he watched his parents work on desegregation and advocacy for poor and low-wealth people. For a time, his father, pastor and scholar William J. Barber, Sr, worked with a local Community Action Program to assist people in low-wealth, susceptible neighborhoods in winterizing their homes. It helped shape Barber's worldview early on. "I saw him recognize that you cannot say that you care about lifting the lot of poor, low-wealth people in this country if you do not fight to ensure that they have full protected and expanding voting rights, that those that are ill and sick and disabled are guaranteed income, and that those that work make a living wage — a living wage — and that they have access to affordable, safe housing as well as healthcare."

As an adult, Barber traveled the United States continuing to be in community with people living in poverty and experiencing homelessness. On his visits to encampments, he listened as people told him about being neglected, demonized and cast aside. There was the homeless camp in the woods of Hickory, North Carolina, nestled not far from a church advertising anti-LGBT hatred on its billboard. "I remember tearing up really bad when [the people there] said, 'There are plenty of vacant homes in this city. They'll never open them up to us,'" he said. Residents of the camp warned him he probably would not be able to come for a return visit. By then, the police would have run them out.

Later, Barber visited an encampment in Aberdeen, Washington, where a thousand people, mostly white and Indigenous millennials, were living in despair. When he asked a man there, a veteran of the U.S. military, why he flew an American flag over the car and tent he slept in, the man answered that he wanted people to know "what happens too often underneath our flag."

During the last election, Barber journeyed to an underpass in Milwaukee as people living there prepared to be swept before the Democratic National Convention. As he had been before, he was struck by the lengths American culture and society goes to hide its most devastating aspects. "Folks can drive by things without seeing them.



**(Left) The co-chairs of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival, Bishop William J. Barber II and Rev. Dr. Liz Theoharis. The photo was taken December 13, 2021 in Washington, DC, at a Moral March on Washington. Credit: Steve Pavey/Poor People's Campaign/Repairers of the Breach/Kairos Center. (Right): Rev. Barber.**



And therefore, if they never see it, then they don't have to address it. It doesn't singe their consciousness," he said, adding that the upcoming March will do just that. "There's gonna be a whole segment of the program that day on homelessness and the voices of people who are homeless. Not somebody speaking on behalf, but them speaking on behalf of themselves."

Since Barber and Theoharis teamed up to form PPC:NCMR four years ago, one of the Campaign's focuses has been on sourcing hard data to reveal the truth on poverty and justice in the United States. In 2018, PPC:NCMR — along with other grassroots organizations Barber and Theoharis lead, the Kairos Center and Repairers of the Breach — partnered with the Institute of Policy Studies to produce an empirical study of poverty in the U.S. called "The Souls of Poor Folk." Among its many stark findings was that 140 million Americans are poor or live on low incomes; meanwhile, half of all Americans could be plunged into economic ruin by a \$400 emergency.

In 2020, PPC:NCMR, Kairos and Repairers of the Breach worked with Columbia University microeconomist Robert Paul Hartley to produce "Unleashing the Power of Poor and Low-Income Americans: Changing the Political Landscape." The report revealed, among other things, that if low-income members of the electorate voted at the same rate as their higher-income counterparts in 2016, they could have flipped ten states from red to blue, and five from blue to red. And last year, the PPC:NCMR produced a study called "Waking the Sleeping Giant: Poor and Low Income Voters in

the 2020 Elections." It shed even more light on the deciding power the poor and low-income electorate could have, if only campaigns and candidates engaged them and voting rights weren't under constant attack.

Altogether, PPC:NCMR has amassed a compendium of data that undergirds its Third Reconstruction agenda, which includes a 14-point plan for addressing "systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of health care, militarism and the war economy and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism." The March and agenda together have the potential to spark the kind of mass movement King and his spiritual descendants like Barber and Theoharis have long envisioned and worked for. "This day, June 18, two days before the summer solstice, is going to put a moral light on poverty, racism, ecological devastation, denial of healthcare, issues of housing, the war economy and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism and white supremacy, like we have not seen," says Barber, who wants to engage international organizations to set up satellite solidarity events across the world. "It will be the largest gathering of poor, low-wealth people, religious allies and other advocates coming together to put a face on poverty, a face on homelessness and the lack of housing, a face on the denial of a living wage, not just a statistic. But not only to put a face on it and to curse the darkness; we are also coming with the Third Reconstruction agenda."

Since January, PPC:NCMR has been

see PPC next page ➡

# Gun violence in Washtenaw County: The untold stories

After many months of trying for their first child, Celeste Kanpurwala and her husband, who live in Washtenaw County, discovered their pregnancy. The date was 12/12/12: too special not to take notice of. Just two days later, 26 people, including 20 children, were killed at Sandy Hook Elementary School. Seeing the news coverage, each moment bringing the announcement of another life lost, brought sorrow at the reality America existed in — the reality Kanpurwala was to raise a child in. "How am I going to bring a kid into this crazy world?" she recalls asking her husband. Her sorrow eventually became anxiety, then anger. If she were to bring a child into this world with peace of mind, she knew she needed to act.

Kanpurwala works to uplift a campaign called Be SMART, found at [besmartforkids.org](http://besmartforkids.org), which teaches parents how to normalize conversations about gun safety and to take preventative action against gun deaths and injuries for children. Parents are provided easy-to-follow guides and examples for various topics, such as asking another parent if they have firearms in their house prior to a playdate. Other information includes best practices for securely storing firearms, statistics on unintentional gun injuries and deaths, and resources on youth suicide prevention. The acronym is as follows:

- **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles
  - **Model** responsible behavior around guns
  - **Ask** about the presence of unsecured guns in other homes
  - **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide
  - **Tell** your peers to be **SMART**
- After discussions with organizers



**ZOOEY RECTOR-BROOKS**  
**U-M student contributor**

like Kanpurwala, Ann Arbor Public Schools has begun using the Be SMART program. In their weekly letter to parents and guardians, information regarding the program is included so that all families have access to the necessary tools to keep their children safe from gun violence. Chelsea and Dexter schools are in the process of learning more about the Be SMART program to see how it could be implemented in the schools. Ypsilanti is set to discuss the program at the start of the 2022-2023 school year. The Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti district libraries have begun hosting information regarding the program as well.

As Kanpurwala says, "People should care about gun violence because it can affect anyone."

In 2014, the day after her 31st birthday, Kanurwala's father took his life with a shotgun. Less than two years later, she attended her first Moms Demand Action meeting where she first discovered the term "gun violence survivor" — a title that she learned to identify with.

Washtenaw County boasts many organizations that work toward gun violence prevention, including a local chapter of March For Our Lives, a youth-led movement. Christine Kang, Co-Lead, a senior

at Ann Arbor Public Schools, shares that the chapter has been advocating for increased legislation for safe storage and increased mental health resources for students. Her goal is to ensure that "no one has to lose a loved one, a family member, or a friend ever again to gun violence."

Through education, the chapter hopes to raise awareness of what legislation has been introduced and how Washtenaw County residents, especially youth, can help bring about change.

Recently, the Washtenaw chapter has taken part in a couple of direct actions and has another in the works. In October, the group painted a banner about their Peace Plan, which lays out how Michigan can improve upon gun violence. Specifically, it addresses voter safety, historical injustice, intersectional solutions, safe gun ownership and community support. This banner was hung at a busy location in downtown Ann Arbor. In February, the chapter attended Lobby For Our Lives, a youth-led lobby day at the State Capitol. Now, they are planning an event to announce the expansion of the club to include both University of Michigan college students and Ann Arbor high school students.

Both Kanpurwala and Kang agree that local residents can take action by having everyday conversations with those around them about making communities safer. Likewise, supporting local groups through going to chapter meetings, taking part in direct actions, and donating money when able is greatly needed. Washtenaw County is not immune to the epidemic of gun violence; preventative measures are needed in order to protect those who live here.

➡ PPC from previous page

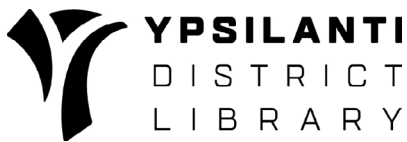
building momentum for the March with its Mobilization Tour. After several stops across the country, it will convene in Memphis, Tennessee, where King was assassinated in 1968. About a month later, the Mass Poor People's & Low-Wage Workers' Assembly & Moral March on Washington and to the Polls will finally be realized on June 18. The key to supporting the movement

and march? Being present. "We are saying to people — wherever you are, whether you're poor, low-wealth, or whether you're a religious leader, or whether you're an advocate — we need folks to make their way and mobilize as many people as they can to D.C.," says Barber, who hopes the March will serve as a collective declaration that enough suffering is enough. "We won't be silent anymore. It's not a one-day event. It's a movement

coming together to reshape the moral narrative, to build power, and not to beg the nation, but to offer the nation a way of hope and redemption."

Visit [poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://poorpeoplescampaign.org) to learn more on how to get involved.

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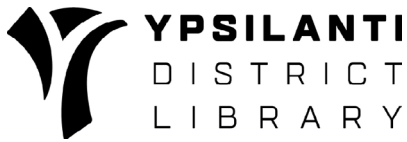
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Book sale prices are \$1 for hardcovers, 25¢ for paperbacks, and 50¢ for oversize paperbacks.





# From Ann Arbor to Boston: U-M community says thank you and farewell to Provost Susan Collins

In early February, Dr. Mary Sue Coleman, the interim president of the University of Michigan, announced that the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Susan Collins, would be leaving to become President and CEO of the Boston Federal Reserve System. The key questions on the minds of many people on campus and the city were, “Why?” and “What is the Federal Reserve System?”

I, as a Groundcover News writer, started an informal conversation with some members of the campus community and some city residents in order to find out how many students know about Provost Collins, and how many people know about the Federal Reserve System in America. The good news is that most of the students know who Provost Collins is and how much she supports the University’s initiatives on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The bad news is that very few people know about the Federal Reserve System and how decisions made by their board members affect the economy and the quality of our lives.

## Who is Provost Susan Collins?

She is a serious scholar and a talented leader. Her academic achievements are staggering. For those students and city residents who want to know more about her: Provost Collins received her Bachelor’s degree in Economics from Harvard University. She graduated with the highest honor, summa cum laude. She did her doctoral work in Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Upon graduation, she was hired by Harvard University to become a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Economics. She was promoted to Associate Professor at Harvard before she became a full Professor of Economics at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Collins joined the U-M Economics department and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy as a tenured faculty in 2007. She served as the Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of the Ford School from 2007 to 2017. She is now serving as the Edward M. Gramlich Professor of Public Policy and a distinguished Professor of Economics in the College of Literature, Science and Arts. She is also a non-resident senior fellow in Economic Studies at the Brookings Institution.

The Federal Reserve Bank of Boston posted a biography which describes Dr. Collins as “An International Macroeconomist with a lifelong interest in



**WILL SHAKESPEARE**  
Groundcover vendor No. 258

understanding and fostering policies to improve living standards in countries at all levels of development.” Her research has examined determinants of economic growth, the roles of China and India in the global economy, cross-border financial integration and linkages between trade and labor markets, among other topics. She edited “The Brookings Trade Forum” from 1999 to 2007.

## Gratitude for Provost Collins’ Achievements at the University of Michigan and Washtenaw County

The University of Michigan is designated as a National Center for Poverty Research (NCPR). Dr. Collins was influential in getting former U-M President Mark Schlissel to establish the Poverty Solution Center at the Ford School of Public Policy.

Community engagement and public service are important to Dr. Collins. As the Dean of U-M’s Ford School she was able to invite both liberal and conservative national opinion leaders to address the students, faculty and staff. She invited minority-owned businesses to talk about their barriers to succeeding, and what strategies could propel them to greater success. She has invited local government leaders in Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County to visit the University and share their policy initiatives, goals, objectives and implementation actions. She has also talked to some representatives of local community organizations about visiting the Ford School and discussing their roles for ending poverty, hunger, housing insecurity and homelessness.

Dr. Collins and her family donated \$25,000 toward scholarship programs at the Ford School and she urged Michigan Alumni to contribute. She was a catalyst that gave more national visibility to the Ford school. She promoted interdisciplinary learning and research. Because of her, the Ford School and several U-M colleges and

departments continue to rank among the best in the United States and the world.

Her impact as Provost during the worst period of COVID-19 is remarkable. She gets high marks for improved campus climate and tranquility, and for steering the university in the right direction after a string of sexual harassment scandals. She gets high marks for promoting the safety and wellness of the students; she also gets high marks for working with Dr. Robert Sellers to implement the University’s DEI Initiatives.

U-M students at the Flint and Dearborn campuses ended their summer 2021 protest after the Schlissel administration changed course and extended the four-year tuition benefits to excellent students who come from poor and lower income working class families. When the free tuition program was designed, it did not include many low income students who were mostly first generation college students at other U-M regional campuses such as Flint and Dearborn. The Flint and Dearborn students traveled from regional campuses to march and protest across the Ann Arbor campus, chanting very loudly, “IT’S UNFAIR!”

## Civic Lessons on the Origin and Development of the Federal Reserve System

The U.S. Constitution was drafted in 1787. In March 1789, George Washington was inaugurated as the first President of the new nation. Historians, including Ernest Patterson and Thomas Conway, tell us that America’s first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton, called for the creation of a central bank. However, America’s first Secretary of State, Thomas Jefferson, said that the creation of a central bank violated the constitution. Two years later, in 1791, Alexander Hamilton’s argument for a national central bank prevailed. The First Bank of the United States was established. This new bank was granted a charter to operate for 20 years.

The new Congress of the United States asserted, “Whereas it is conceived that the establishment of a bank for the United States will be very conducive to the successful conducting of the national finance, will tend to give facility to the obtaining of loans for the use of government...and will be productive of considerable advantage to trade and industry.”

Headquartered in Philadelphia, it had offices in most major U.S. cities



**U-M Provost Susan Collins will be leaving Ann Arbor to become President and CEO of the Boston Federal Reserve System.**

and took bank deposits and offered loans. It also was the government’s bank — collecting taxes, paying its bill and granting it loans.

By the time the charter was up for renewal in 1811, the general feeling was that it had become too powerful. The charter was not renewed. The decision not to renew the charter was met with furious and loud debates. Some proponents argued against the assertion that the central bank had become too powerful. As Congress faced the challenge about how to fund the war of 1812 and defeat the British invaders, the movement of folks who wanted a second look at having a national bank began to get a flood of support. By 1816, resistance to the idea of a national central bank waned, and Congress chartered another central bank of the United States of America.

Economic historians report that the second national bank of 1816 was similar to the first central bank of 1791. The key difference was the sheer size and influence. People in the rural areas and small business owners were concerned about the economic might of the central bank, and also the power of men who ran the banking organizations. Conversely, many congressmen saw how the new bank operation was creating financial stability across the nation.

The election of Populist Andrew Jackson as President of the United States in 1828 became a major setback to the concept of a national bank. During his inaugural speech in March 1829, the new President promised to look into the complaints launched by “a large portion of our citizens.”

Congress wasted no time renewing the national bank charter in 1832. However, President Andrew Jackson vetoed the re-charter. The veto

see COLLINS page 10 ➡

# "The Outfit" — a fairly tailored atypical gangster movie

**ANDRE VASHER**  
Groundcover contributor

A movie about mobsters in Chicago that presents as the antithesis of a typical gangster movie. Is that even possible? I vote yes.

“The Outfit” delivers so much more than the usual shoot ‘em up gangster fare. Cerebral to the point of all the action taking place in one setting and yet violent enough to remind you of the dangers of the underworld, this well-crafted movie never wastes a scene or line of dialog.

People are not what they seem, especially in the criminal underworld. A tailor creates suits for gentlemen customers while trying to ignore criminal business conducted around his shop. As this tailor, Mark Rylance delivers a performance for the ages in the role of Leonard, a meek, well-spoken and mild-mannered craftsman forced to deal with the desperation of violent gangsters one fateful winter night in the Windy City.

“The Outfit” takes a different path to mobster-driven suspense than “The Godfather” or “Goodfellas.” Rather, it more closely mimics the drama in “Twelve Angry Men,” depending on the acting versus the action to carry the day.

Rylance’s training as a Shakespearian stage actor shines light on dialog that always delivers and expressions that convey subtle messages contributing to a plot that keeps viewers glued to the screen. Fans of Broadway may recall Mark Rylance winning multiple Tony awards and then reciting poems as his acceptance speech. This quirky actor chooses to stand out in ways that don’t involve hopping up onstage and slapping an award presenter.

The other performance that stands out is Johnny Flynn as Francis, a gangster who radiates calculated evil with every line he sneers. Francis and Leonard engage in a battle of wits throughout the film and Rylance and Flynn go toe-to-toe right up until the end of the movie. Other cast members include:

- Zoey Deutch as Mable Shaun
- Dylan O’Brien as Richie Boyle
- Simon Russell Beale as Roy Boyle
- Nikki Amuka-Bird as Violet LaFontaine
- Alan Mehdi-zadeh as Monk

The screenplay by Jonathon McClain and Graham Moore, who also directed the movie, was inspired in part by one of the writers reading about the FBI’s use of tape recorders in the 1950s to plant “bugs” for gathering incriminating evidence on potential criminals. Suffice it to say, a

tape plays heavily in the plot of this cerebral gangster flick.

I viewed this fine film at Ann Arbor’s State Theater, and feel “The Outfit” is best consumed with others in a shared viewing environment. The old-fashioned feel of the theater aligns perfectly with the underworld of Chicago in the mid-fifties, so moviegoers should consider this as an immersive experience to be garnered at a local theater.

Even if you can’t get to a theater, find this movie when it comes out online. Rylance and company will not disappoint.



**Zoey Deutch and Mark Rylance in a scene from "The Outfit."**

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Oil Price

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Aviation

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Gasohol

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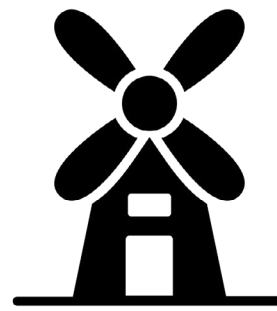
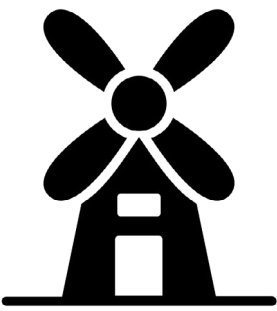
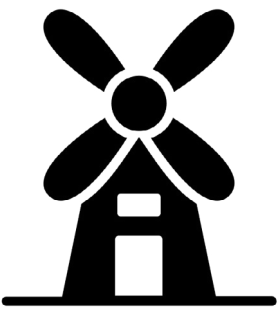
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Hydropower

Biofuel

Demand

Meter



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5	1	2	6	9	3	7	4	8
6	9	4	8	1	2	7	3	5

**PUZZLE SOLUTIONS**

➡ **COLLINS** from page 8

received an override by Congress. The charter re-authorization continued until the central bank closed in 1841. Before the closure, support for the central bank was at an all time low.

As the United States experienced financial troubles in the early 1860s when the Civil War started, Congress decided to enact the National Banking Act of 1863 in order to help the war efforts. This law was signed by President Abraham Lincoln. The new national bank was created to have offices in all states in America. Unlike the first and second chartered national banks, the 1863 charter bank did not create a central bank.

Historians Thomas Conway and Ernest Patterson observed in their 1914 book, "The Operations of the New Bank," that "one of the serious defects of our banking system is the absence of any strong, quieting hand which can enforce united actions by the bank." The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago historian also reflected, "Although this act tried to create financial stability throughout the country, financial turmoil and bank runs were typical of the

decades following the passage. This set the stage for the creation of the Federal Reserve System."

Eventually, Congress acted in 1913 to establish the Federal Reserve System as we know it today. Congressional intent was to have the Federal Reserve System become the nation's central bank and to oversee the U.S. monetary policy.

The modern Federal Reserve was designed "to provide the nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system."

Specifically, the key mandates of the Federal Reserve are to seek maximum employment and to ensure price stability by working to lower inflation and interest rates. The Fed's bank board decisions can have ramifications for consumers at grocery stores, gas stations, and in home loans or auto loans. The Fed's bank board decisions can have a positive or negative impact on the macroeconomic goal of full employment.

**Conclusion**

As we say thank you and farewell to Provost Susan Collins, we would like

our readers to understand what her new role will be in Boston. The Federal Reserve Bank Board of Boston has articulated what the role of the President and CEO should be:

"The President and Chief Executive Officer guides the focus of the bank's economic research and gathers economic intelligence through interactions with the Bank's board of directors, advisory councils, and other business and community contacts. The President represents the first District at the Federal Open Market Committee and provides key insights to those policy discussions. Additionally, the President and Chief Executive Officer ensure the Bank maintains an effective system of Bank supervision and contributes to collective Federal Reserve System actions and directions."

There are 12 major Districts of the Federal Reserve System located in major cities across the country. There are also 26 branch banks of the Federal Reserve. Each of the 12 District offices appoints a President and CEO. Provost Susan Collins will be the first Black woman to become a President and CEO in a Federal Reserve District office and headquarters. She is highly

qualified for the position. She served on the Class B Board of Directors at the Chicago Federal Reserve District 7. She also served as a member of the Board of Directors at the Detroit Branch Bank of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago. She has served on the executive committee of the National Bureau of Economic Research and the American Economic Association, to mention a few. She is also a member of the Peterson Institute for International Economics and the prestigious Council on Foreign Relations.

Provost Collins has an enviable academic pedigree, organizational leadership abilities, and high quality decision-making skills at the highest levels. Her interpersonal and communication skills are impressive. The U-M Board of Regents met recently to express their gratitude and to honor Provost Collins with numerous accolades, citations and designations. She will be missed. We sincerely wish her the best. GOOD LUCK TO PROVOST SUSAN COLLINS AND HER FAMILY! HAPPY TRAILS IN BOSTON!!!



# Pickled radishes

**ELIZABETH BAUMAN**  
Groundcover contributor

## Ingredients:

4 bunches red radishes  
1 cup white vinegar  
1 cup water  
2 ½ Tbsp. sugar  
1 Tbsp. sea salt  
½ tsp. mixed peppercorns  
½ tsp. mustards seeds

## Directions:

Thinly slice the radishes and place in small canning jars (fill to the brim). Heat the vinegar, water, sugar and salt in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Stir until sugar and salt dissolve. Let cool and then pour brine over the radishes. Add equal amounts of peppercorns and mustard to each jar. Place lids on jars. Allow to pickle overnight before eating; best if refrigerated.



Store in a refrigerator and eat within two weeks.

These radishes are so delicious as an appetizer or as a tasty snack.



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for I came from God and am here;  
I did not come on my own, but he sent me."  
+ Christ Jesus (John 8:42)

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